

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on December 11, 2008. Since this Amendment is being filed within the three month shortened statutory period for response, which expires on March 11, 2009, no extension of time or other fees are believed to be due, except as detailed in the attached documents. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 502846 (Customer Number 36163).

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending in this application. Claims 1-15 are allowed. Claim 16 is amended to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 18 are amended to correct minor errors in form. Claim 19 is also amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 16 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claims 16-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0064748 to Stulberger ("Stulberger) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,081,782 to Rabin ("Rabin") in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,289,226 to Lekven et al. ("Lekven"). Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stulberger in view of Rabin and Lekven, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0139171 to Kuita.

Claim 19, which depends from claim 16, is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To put this application in condition for allowance, claim 16 is amended.

Claim 16 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 19. Claim 19 is amended to include additional subject matter. Because amended claim 16 contains allowable subject matter, claim 16 is now patentable. Because claims 17-20 depend from and include all of the limitations of independent claim 16, claims 17-20 are also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, all of the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

PLUMSEA LAW GROUP, LLC

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